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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 48/24 of 24 November 1993, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/422 and Add.1). It requested the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to continue cooperation in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and economic and technical development; and encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with OIC.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly recommended that a general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions be organized in Geneva in May 1994. It requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of OIC, to continue encouraging the convening of sectoral meetings in the priority areas of cooperation, as recommended by the previous meetings between the two organizations, including the follow-up to the sectoral meetings. It further requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and OIC.

II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARIATS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

3. On 29 September 1993, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of OIC held their annual coordination meeting at United Nations Headquarters to discuss the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, particularly those items of concern and interest to OIC. In response to an invitation from OIC, the Director for Regional Cooperation and Self-determination of the Secretariat attended the coordination meeting.

4. The coordination meeting reviewed the current international situation, dealing in particular with issues concerning the Middle East and the question of Palestine; the situation in Somalia; the situation in Afghanistan; the consequences of Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and non-compliance by Iraq with the Security Council's resolutions; the Jammu and Kashmir dispute; and the situation in South Africa.

5. On 17 January 1994 in Geneva, and on 27 April 1994 in New York, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Ministers of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia together with the Secretary-General of OIC to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6. On 1 August 1994, the Secretary-General convened a high-level meeting in New York with 10 regional arrangements and organizations with which the United Nations has had close cooperation over the last few years. The meeting was the first of its kind and was attended by the Secretary-General of OIC,

His Excellency Dr. Hamid Al-Ghabid, together with high-level representatives of other regional organizations. The timeliness and significance of the meeting were confirmed, with participants stressing the need to find ways to explore the potential of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations for enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

7. At the invitation of OIC and the Government of Pakistan, the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmed, represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Extraordinary Meeting of Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, from 6 to 9 September 1994.

8. During the period under review, representatives of OIC participated in the meetings of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

9. Regular consultations were held and information exchanged between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the General Secretariat of OIC, as well as the Office of the Permanent Observer for OIC to the United Nations.

III. GENERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARIATS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, HELD IN GENEVA FROM 9 TO 11 MAY 1994

10. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/24, a general meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions was held in Geneva from 9 to 11 May 1994. In accordance with the agreement between the coordinating secretariats, the meeting addressed the following main agenda items:

(a) Review of cooperation and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by previous meetings in the nine priority areas, namely:

(i) Food security and agriculture;

(ii) Development of science and technology;

(iii) Investment mechanisms and joint ventures;

(iv) Education and eradication of illiteracy;

(v) Assistance to refugees;

(vi) Technical cooperation among Islamic countries;

(vii) Development of trade;

(viii) Human resources development;

(ix) Environment;

(b) Consideration of the next United Nations/OIC sectoral meeting on technical cooperation;

(c) Consideration of proposals for enhancing cooperation between the United Nations system and OIC and its institutions.

11. Representatives of the following departments of the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system participated in the meeting: Department of Political Affairs; Department for Development Support and Management Services; Department of Humanitarian Affairs; Department of Public Information; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); International Labour Organization (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Health Organization (WHO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

12. Representatives of the following organizations and institutions of OIC participated in the meeting: Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD); Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT); Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC); Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE); Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA); Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) and Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

13. Based on the discussions in the meetings, which centred around the working papers prepared by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations and OIC and its institutions, the meeting agreed to continue and strengthen cooperation in the nine priority areas, as defined in specific agreements reached between the agencies of the two organizations at the meeting. (These agreements are contained in the final report of the meeting which was transmitted by the United Nations Secretariat to all the participating agencies of the United Nations and to the OIC secretariat on 14 June 1994.)

14. It was also agreed that the next focal point meeting of the lead agencies of the United Nations and OIC would be held in 1995. The venue and date will be decided after consultations between the two organizations.

15. The meeting further recognized the need to strengthen cooperation in the political field. For this purpose, it was agreed that consultations should be undertaken between the secretariats of the United Nations and OIC with a view to defining the mechanisms for such cooperation.

16. Finally, to enhance United Nations/OIC cooperation further, the meeting proposed that:

(a) A review should be undertaken of the ways and means to enhance the actual mechanisms of cooperation. To this effect, the participating United Nations and OIC institutions are invited to submit to their respective coordinators their suggestions and observations on this matter, for the purpose of preparing a consolidated paper to be examined by the next general meeting;

(b) Contacts should be intensified between the focal points of the two organizations between meetings;

(c) Appropriate cooperation arrangements between United Nations and OIC institutions should, where appropriate, be concluded in line with General Assembly resolutions;

(d) Memoranda of understanding should be signed between the agencies of the United Nations and OIC wherever relevant;

(e) Suitable programmes should be identified and formulated within the framework of cooperation;

(f) Serious efforts should be made by both organizations to include projects and activities with longer life and continuing substantive value for the member countries. Funding organizations in the United Nations and OIC countries will be invited to support such projects and activities. Progress in these types of activities will be reported regularly to the meetings of the United Nations and OIC;

(g) The need for the participation of funding agencies in the meeting will be emphasized by the United Nations and OIC;

(h) The search for funding resources should be intensified.

17. Finally, it was agreed that the theme of the United Nations/OIC sectoral meeting on technical cooperation would be decided after consultations between the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations and OIC.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND ITS SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS

18. It may be recalled that the United Nations and OIC established areas of priority to serve as the basis for their cooperation, and designated organizations and agencies on both sides to act as focal points for follow-up action which would be required for the implementation of recommendations adopted by joint meetings of the two organizations.

19. The organizations and agencies of the United Nations system serving as focal points for the areas for action as a matter of priority are as follows:

	Organization/agency	Area
1.	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat	Development of science and technology
2.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Development and trade
3.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Technical cooperation among Islamic countries
4.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Assistance to refugees
5.	Food and Agriculture Organization the United Nations (FAO)	Food security and agriculture
6.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Education and eradication of illiteracy
7.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Investment mechanisms and joint ventures
8.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Human resources development
9.	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Environment

20. Outlined below is a summary of the reports of the organizations and agencies serving as focal points concerning their cooperation with OIC in the areas requiring action as a matter of priority during the period under review.

A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Development of trade

21. In the context of cooperation between OIC and the Central Asian republics, it was agreed that UNCTAD would undertake a mission to those republics and report the outcome to both the OIC Commission on Trade and Development and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

22. A draft project proposal for enhancing regional cooperation in trade, transport and other areas of cooperation has been prepared by UNCTAD. In addition to the three founding members of ECO (the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey), the project proposal includes six Central Asian republics as well as Azerbaijan and Afghanistan. The financing of the project was taken up at the donor-recipient Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Geneva from 27 June to 1 July 1994.

23. Since 1991, the UNCTAD secretariat has been working on the implementation of an intersectoral research project on prospects for the sustained development of the Palestinian economy. Attempts which have been made to associate OIC with the implementation of this project have unfortunately been inconclusive. Part one of this project, which deals with the analysis of the current economic and social situation and the identification of needs and measures for action, has now been brought to a successful conclusion. Based on the findings therein, the UNCTAD secretariat will focus increasing efforts in 1994-1995 on rendering technical assistance to areas where the secretariat has developed capacities in operational activities. Following the emergence of the Palestinian Interim Self-governing Authority, OIC and its specialized institutions may extend operational assistance in the economic and social fields to the Palestinian people. To this effect, OIC and UNCTAD could coordinate their efforts effectively in areas of common concern.

24. In the area of debt management, the UNCTAD secretariat has continued cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). In April 1993, UNCTAD participated in a seminar on debt management organized by the Syrian Ministry of Finance and Foreign Trade, the Syrian Central Bank and the Islamic Research and Training Institute of IDB. UNCTAD activities in debt management were discussed during the visit of the IDB delegation in March 1993.

25. The UNCTAD secretariat is in the process of implementing other activities, notably in the fields of transit-transport issues and the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), which were identified during the IDB visit. The OIC secretariat, in cooperation with UNDP and the Arab Trade Financing Programme, will be associated on a cost-sharing basis in the funding of the forthcoming comprehensive technical cooperation programme for the expansion of intra-Arab trade.

B. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

26. Cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and OIC has continued to expand. A number of steps have been taken to translate the terms of the special agreement signed in May 1991 between UNHCR and ISESCO into meaningful arrangements, notably in the field of educational assistance to refugees and dissemination of refugee law. Similar steps are being taken with IDB following the signature of a cooperation agreement in January 1994, to enhance the cooperation with UNHCR in the field of humanitarian assistance to refugees and returnees, and to identify projects and plans focusing on essential needs, such as settlement, training, health, education and development.

27. Finally, in the field of promotion and dissemination of refugee law, UNHCR and OIC are exploring further opportunities to organize jointly seminars and conferences on asylum and refugee law in various Islamic countries.

C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

28. The close cooperation of FAO with member States of OIC continued to focus on areas of mutual concern, particularly agricultural development, information systems, forestry, food security, agricultural policy, sector analysis and statistics. FAO was represented at the meeting of the National Focal Points for Technical Cooperation among Islamic Countries which took place in Turkey from 8 to 11 May 1993. Collaboration between FAO and OIC member countries continued with reciprocal participation in high-level meetings, technical workshops, regional conferences and seminars. (Several major meetings which were initially scheduled to take place during 1993 were postponed.)

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

29. Cooperation between UNESCO and OIC countries goes back to the date of membership of these countries in the organization. In November 1980, an agreement of cooperation was signed. However, the establishment of ISESCO in May 1982 has given this cooperation a better focus in a variety of areas identified as priorities by both UNESCO and ISESCO.

30. Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between UNESCO and OIC, the Second Joint Meeting was convened at UNESCO headquarters on 3 and 4 November 1992 to review present cooperation and to exchange views on future activities. A similar exercise also took place with the major partner of UNESCO in the OIC system, ISESCO, at the Third Joint Meeting between ISESCO and UNESCO, held at UNESCO headquarters (Paris, 6-8 April 1993). A number of areas requiring attention as a matter of priority were identified for increased cooperation between the two organizations, notably the following:

(a) In the field of culture, special emphasis was placed on cooperative projects within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development, the Arabic Plan, the work on the various aspects of Islamic culture and the Silk Roads Project;

(b) In the field of science and technology, UNESCO cooperation with OIC in the various fields of science and technology is mainly channelled through ISESCO and IFSTAD. During the last joint meeting (6-8 April 1993), a certain number of activities were identified for future cooperation in the areas of food security and agriculture, development of science and technology, technical cooperation among Islamic countries and the environment;

(c) In the field of social sciences, UNESCO would welcome developing with OIC a number of activities relating to assistance to refugees and displaced persons and in the general field of human resources development. The overall objective of the UNESCO proposal in this area is to identify the human resources

base of refugees and displaced persons upon which a strong foundation for sustainable development efforts in their support can be built;

(d) In the field of education, three pilot projects in literacy and non-formal education have been prepared jointly by UNESCO and ISESCO to be implemented in nine Islamic countries. For the biennium 1994-1995, cooperation will continue in all areas of primary education, literacy and adult education. New areas of cooperation were agreed during the last meeting of the UNESCO-ISESCO Joint Committee in higher education, technical and vocational education, and information and communication technology. It was also agreed that the two organizations would continue to exchange information on all questions of mutual interest in the field of education.

E. United Nations Environment Programme

31. Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1990 by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of OIC, and the outcome of the two programming sessions of the two organizations held in Jeddah in September 1991 and in Nairobi in February 1992, two project proposals were developed, the first on "Integrated natural resource management of village lands in the district of Mayahi, Niger", and the second on "Introduction and initiation of environmentally sound technology for rural electrification and water pumping in the Republic of Djibouti".

32. These two project proposals involved, in addition to UNEP and OIC, IFSTAD, IDB and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian office (UNSO). Both project documents were forwarded by IFSTAD in November 1993 to the Governments of Niger and Djibouti for formal submission to IDB.

33. UNEP provided technical support to the General Secretariat of OIC and IFSTAD in preparing a study of the environment in the OIC member countries. This report was requested by the Islamic Conference Ministers for Foreign Affairs in their resolution 7/20E of August 1991. It was considered by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in April 1993, when they expressed appreciation of the efforts of the General Secretariat and IFSTAD, which provided the framework for cooperation among Islamic countries in the field of the environment and sustainable development in general.

34. In recent consultations between UNEP and the General Secretariat of OIC and IFSTAD, it was agreed that the two organizations would collaborate in identifying major environmental issues and events and their policy implications for Islamic States in 1994-1995 in the context of the follow-up and implementation of Agenda 21. UNEP would also collaborate under its capacity-building programme with SESRTCIC in Ankara, in training participants from the Islamic States in environmental management, particularly environmental economics and natural resource accounting.

V. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat

35. During the period under review, the cooperation of the Department with member States of OIC focused on natural disaster relief coordination; provision of regular information to OIC countries on relief assistance available in the United Nations system; a consolidated inter-agency appeal (for Sudan); emergency relief assistance (to Iraq); national workshops on emergency management for representatives of United Nations agencies and regional organizations; and a training workshop aimed at flood disaster preparedness and mitigation (in Tajikistan).

B. Department for Development Support and Management Services of the Secretariat

36. The Department has continued to perform technical cooperation activities in the field of development planning in a number of OIC members countries. In October 1993, the Department, in collaboration with the International Water Resources Association, organized a Symposium on Water Resources in the Middle East (Policy and Institutional Aspects), held in Urbana, Illinois, United States of America.

37. In the field of preventive diplomacy, the Department participated in the Middle East Multilateral Working Group on Water Resources, which took place in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 1993. The Department was invited to use the Fresh Water Consultative Forum, held in Geneva from 13 to 16 December 1993, as a medium for technical cooperation between the regional parties.

38. Discussions are also continuing with the Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) for the preparation of a regional seminar on urban geographical information systems in Cairo in 1994 and the implementation of a regional project to develop a municipal management information system, initially in one selected city but such that it could be replicated in other cities in the region.

39. In the areas of physical infrastructure and transport, as well as mapping, surveying and remote sensing, there has been a continuous involvement in project activities in OIC member countries, particularly those designed to involve the direct cooperation of OICC.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

40. Cooperation between OIC and UNICEF was initiated in 1982 and an agreement was signed between the two organizations to this effect. The cooperation focuses on issues concerning children and women in the member States of OIC. This agreement was further reinforced through extensive working meetings held in 1992 between the two organizations.

41. The 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Karachi, Pakistan, in April 1993, adopted resolution 15/21C, in which the Conference called on the General Secretariat of OIC to hold a symposium on child care in Islamic countries. This proposal was authorized by the Sixth Islamic Summit held in Dakar in 1991, through its resolution 2/6C. The Symposium was organized by OIC in cooperation with the Islamic Fiqh Academy, Muslim experts and UNICEF, in Jeddah from 28 to 30 June 1994. It provided a unique opportunity to deliberate on the universal ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as strategies towards achieving the Mid-Decade Goals and the Year 2000 Goals for children and women living in the OIC member States.

D. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

42. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has maintained contacts at different levels with the OIC Secretariat since 1987. Meetings in Jeddah take place from time to time between UNRWA officials and the OIC Under-Secretary for Palestine and Al Quds and other Secretariat staff. The Secretary-General of OIC, H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, met the Commissioner-General of UNRWA on 25 November 1993 to enhance cooperation between UNRWA and OIC. Possible means of cooperation in supporting the Palestine people, especially in the occupied territory during the transition period, were discussed. It was also agreed that delegations at the working level of the two organizations would meet to discuss plans of action.

43. Regular contacts are also maintained: UNRWA keeps OIC informed about its activities and programmes through public information and other material which is sent to Jeddah regularly. In addition, UNRWA maintains a good working relationship with IDB, which is an organ of OIC.

E. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

44. Cooperation between ESCWA and OIC, through its affiliated agencies, continued and progressed during 1992-1993. Memoranda of understanding between ESCWA and OIC and between ESCWA and IFSTAD are in the process of being signed, and a number of activities in several substantive fields have been implemented jointly. ESCWA participated at the highest level in the IFSTAD Scientific Consultative Council meeting held in Cairo in June 1993.

45. ESCWA has also put forward a number of project proposals for joint implementation in the field of science and technology, industry, agriculture, environment, energy, water resources, food security, trade, human settlements, transport, and Palestinian studies. These included a joint study on rehabilitation and absorption of Palestinian refugees into the Palestinian economy.

F. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

46. Formal relations between the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and specialized agencies of OIC started in 1989, as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/8 of 18 October 1989. Since then, several divisions of ECA have either been exploring ways of cooperation or been collaborating actively with OIC and its specialized institutions.

47. In 1993, the following activities were carried out between ECA and OIC specialized institutions.

(a) Science and technology

48. In the area of science and technology, ECA cooperated with IFSTAD, a subsidiary organ and specialized institution of OIC.

(b) Water resources and marine affairs

49. ECA and the IDB undertook a joint mission to Cameroon in December 1992 to examine the development of groundwater points in Menchum province.

(c) Pan-African Development Information System

50. The Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS) has fruitful relations with IDB, ISESCO and the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI).

51. IRTI is developing an information system and network (OICIS-NET) complementary to the PADIS system and network covering 19 African member countries of OIC. Joint efforts are being made to coordinate activities between the two institutions.

52. ISESCO and PADIS are exchanging information and data on joint member countries and cooperating in the field of information/documentation management. Similar cooperation exists with SESRTCIC in exchanging publications and information.

53. The Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT) and PADIS are studying the possibilities of cooperation in the development of trade information systems.

(d) Transport and communications

54. Regarding cooperation in transport and communications, a delegation from OIC went to ECA in May 1993. Extensive discussions took place regarding prospects for IDB to fund the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) projects of OIC African member States.

G. International Telecommunication Union

55. Since November 1992, ITU has been actively involved in the implementation phase of the OIC Information Systems Network Project (OICIS-NET) in close cooperation with IDB.

56. It has, in particular, participated in the two coordination meetings that took place in Jeddah in December 1992 and February 1993, immediately following the decision of the Board of Directors of IDB to approve the implementation of OICIS-NET in order to launch the activities for the successful realization and operation of the network.

57. At the request of IDB, ITU is elaborating a project document on possible ITU technical assistance to IDB for the implementation of the OICIS-NET project. An expert mission to IDB headquarters in Jeddah took place in February 1994 to define the nature and content of the ITU assistance.

58. During the mission, the terms and conditions of cooperation between ITU and IDB (acting on behalf of OIC member countries) were discussed with IDB officials and defined accordingly. Consequently, a project document, together with a Letter of Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding between IDB and ITU, were prepared.

59. The implementation of the OICIS-NET project is to involve all OIC member countries as they will all benefit from the information network, which is expected to become operational partially within three years and totally within five years.

60. At the request of OIC, ITU, together with the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), organized a workshop-type seminar on optical fibre technology in Dhaka in October 1993.

61. ITU also participated in and contributed to the OIC Meeting of Group of Experts on Telecommunication Tariffs, held in Cairo in September 1993.

H. World Intellectual Property Organization

62. WIPO undertook a series of consultations with OIC and its affiliates, namely IDB, ISESCO and IFSTAD, designed to create a mechanism for regular and effective cooperation.

63. Following the signing in 1992 of an agreement on cooperation which provided the framework and procedures for cooperation between OIC and WIPO, consultations continued with a view to undertaking several joint activities. In January 1994, representatives of IDB and IFSTAD met in Geneva with WIPO officials and discussed the strengthening of their cooperation. As a first step, they agreed to organize jointly, later in 1994, a workshop on industrial property licensing and technology transfer arrangements. In the field of copyright, the Director General of ISESCO had consultations with WIPO officials during the meetings of the WIPO governing bodies in November 1993 and agreed to organize a number of

activities in 1994, including a seminar on copyright for French-speaking countries in Morocco in October 1994.

64. In order to further translate their undertaking into concrete policies for the promotion of awareness and improvement of the protection and effective use of intellectual property by member countries of OIC, WIPO and OIC plan to focus their policies on three priority sectors: the development of human resources, the use of patent information and documentation, and reinforcement of intellectual property infrastructures.

I. World Meteorological Organization

65. WMO assistance and technical cooperation activities in OIC member countries continued in various areas of WMO competence, especially with regard to human resources development, national meterological and hydrological services, drought monitoring, applied meteorology, the environment, food security, agriculture, and the convention to combat desertification.

J. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

66. UNCHS has implemented several projects in the member States of OIC, either individually or in collaboration with other agencies. It is also implementing technical cooperation projects upon request from Governments, covering a wide range of human settlements activities, as well as promoting technical cooperation among OIC member States.

K. International Civil Aviation Organization

67. At the present time, through the Technical Cooperation Bureau, ICAO has active civil aviation projects in 30 member States of OIC. As has been reported, a Memorandum of Understanding between ICAO and IDB is in effect. The Memorandum recalls the vital contribution of civil aviation to the social and economic development of IDB countries and provides for cooperation between ICAO and IDB in the development of civil aviation projects. However, no joint technical cooperation projects are under study at present.

L. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

68. Cooperation between GATT and OIC has continued as in previous years. GATT has continued to provide technical assistance to member States of OIC in the context of normal GATT activities and/or the Uruguay Round negotiations. GATT has also been providing opportunities for training facilities in its trade policy courses to officials of member States of OIC.

M. World Bank

69. The World Bank continues to support economic and social programmes in individual OIC member States through its lending and selected activities, for example, policy dialogue, technical assistance and aid coordination. Bank assistance was concentrated in the priority areas of urban development, agriculture, human resources development and transport.

N. International Monetary Fund

70. IMF continues to be actively involved in assisting the member countries of OIC. The main vehicles for such cooperation include financial assistance, external debt and aid coordination, policy advice in the elaboration and implementation of fund-supported programmes, as well as in the context of regular consultation and discussions. The Fund also provided technical assistance to the OIC member countries in several areas, including the banking sector, financial reform, budgetary policies, external debt, the exchange system, social safety nets, monetary policy, taxation and price statistics, financial programming, government finance, and expenditure control.

O. World Food Programme

71. The World Food Programme continued to contribute to the reduction of poverty and hunger in many OIC member countries. By 31 March 1994, there were 119 projects in 35 OIC member countries, 45 of which are under implementation in sub-Saharan African countries, 51 in Arab States and 23 in Asia. There are currently 22 active emergency operations and 13 protracted feeding operations for refugees and displaced persons in 21 OIC member countries.

P. International Fund for Agricultural Development

72. To date, 47 OIC member States are members of IFAD. These Islamic countries have been active partners and strong supporters of IFAD, as both recipients of loans and contributors to its resources.

Q. International Labour Organization

73. ILO assistance and technical cooperation activities in OIC member countries continued in response to the requests of member States in the various areas of ILO competence, particularly with regard to employee-intensive infrastructure programmes and activities related to income generation.

74. Cooperation between ILO and OIC has been strengthened and has taken the form of exchange of information and attendance at meetings and seminars. On the whole, the activities of ILO and OIC member countries have been quite extensive and covered many social and technological aspects.